



Sparkling Tour 2006 continues.....

The Aruban version of “American Idol” proved such a success when it premiered last year, that Setar and TeleAruba, the island’s national telecommunications and television network repeated the event that is on its way to becoming an island tradition.

Sunday evening saw the second show in the series that will complete in two weeks, on August 13. The first event on July 16 introduced the twenty-five talented young people to the public and judges that made it past the initial auditions. A fabulous show gave them the opportunity to “strut their stuff” and on Sunday, July 30, it was revealed on TV, broadcast live from the Aruba Entertainment Center, who made the cut to be the fifteen semi-finalists that will go on to compete for the grand prize of 35,000 Arubian Florin, (\$20,000.) It was literally the “Triumph of Victory; the Agony of Defeat” as the young performers opened the envelopes that contained either a red or green card, giving them the stop or go ahead.

Upon finding out their fate, each individual or group then performed the production number that they had prepared for the semi-finals, or went on to a final farewell interview in the dressing rooms. The singers had the great advantage of having Hildward Croes, an Aruba musician of world renown as their back up, and some remarkable talent was revealed on the stage. One could see these were difficult decisions for judges Chucho Hoek, Chayo Tromp, Edjean Semeleer, Mirugia de Cuba, and Maybeline Arends Croes, all accomplished musicians, or teachers of music with a long history in the field. They encouraged those that did not go on to work and improve, as they would not have gotten as far as they did if they did not have exceptional talent that should be developed.

The Entertainment Center was filled to capacity with friends, family and fans. The candidates watched and waited anxiously behind the scenes to see their name announced for their turn to come to the stage to learn their fate, and the atmosphere was filled with an electricity of excitement and anticipation.

Bernadeth Corpuz, Luigi Cortez, Griselidys Roger Acosta, Jaderick Croes, Stephanie Albertus, Raisa Rudge-Chiki, Maria Ras, Kimberly Dijkhoff, Gerar Kouri, Vincent Tonk, Justy Lopez, Gabriela Krozendijk, Rachael Murry, and the singing groups of Vinyl and Youth Boyz all triumphantly held aloft their green cards. Their performances of this past Sunday night will decide if they will do it again in two weeks, and then perform as finalists to perhaps take home the grand prize. Judges are again faced with the dilemma of choosing from these remarkably talented young people, as they proved again this past Sunday.

For complete profiles on all the stars, judges, and the latest updates on Sparkling Tour 2006, access the website at www.sparklingtour.com.